TNSRECORDS

FREE PUNK AND SKA FANZINE
MARCH/APRIL 2010

THE KIRKZ/SECTION 13/TOTR
MR SHIRAZ/LEAGUES APART
STRUMMERCAMP 2010



8

Welcome to issue 8 of TNSrecords FREE fanzine.
We have two exciting new label releases for you, which you can find information about on the next page. Check them out as we are still 100% not-for-profit so as I always say, every single sale makes a difference and is genuinely appreciated.
We are very much looking forward to working with these bands and you can check out interviews with them later in the issue.
We also have all the news from our other bands, details about our live events (including our stage at the amazingly awesome Strummercamp), our new weekly podcast and we have also tried to give you a bit which isn't to do with TNS too with some interviews and rantings.

We really hope you enjoy this issue and please get in touch if you want to get involved with any aspect of TNS.
Please check out our back catalogue if you fancy some new and cheap CDs.

Webstore: www.tnsrecords.co.uk
Myspace: www.myspace.com/tnsrecords_uk
Contact:
Fanzine/live - andy@tnsrecords.co.uk
Radio/label/distro - bev@tnsrecords.co.uk
Postal: Flat 113, The Hacienda, Manchester, M1 5DB

This issue was put together by Sam, Em, Emma Stone, Mozza, Phil and myself, Andy
Cover/layout by Andy
The cover explores the idea that many peoples perception of the real world and real life is purely based on what they are told by the television and mainstream media.

A massive thanks to everyone who sent stuff in, contributed and advertised.
We couldn't afford to do this without you so we appreciate the support so much.

CHECK OUT OUR BANDS:
BEAT THE RED LIGHT - Slayer vs. the Slackers ska-core
STAND OUT RIOT - Ska-core with folk bits for fans of Streetlight Manifesto and Gogol Bordello
A WARAGAINSTSOUND - Think Capdown vs. A Wilhelm Scream
REVENGE OF THE PSYCHOTRONIC MAN - Stupidly fast melodic punk for fans of Zeke, Kid Dynamite and the Dead Kennedys
SENSE OF URGENCY - A Link80-esque ska-core onslaught
HARIJAN - Reggae/punk/ska for fans of King Prawn and Capdown
THE KIRKZ - see next page
SOUNDS OF SWAMI - Technical punk/hardcore
LEAGUES APART - see next page
FAINTEST IDEA - Punk/two tone for fans of the Filaments



DISTRIBUTION:
TNS releases are now distributed through Code 7 Music (via Plastic Head).
This means you can order our releases from all good record shops. Request our releases in your local store and they will be able to order them in through Code 7.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL RECORD STORES OR THEY WILL DISAPPEAR!
www.code7music.com

***TNS**: SUPPORTING UNDERGROUND PUNK AND SKA*
*LABEL - **FANZINE** - RADIO - DISTRO - LIVE*

TNS010:
THE KIRKZ - AGROCULTURE

This is the second full length album from top-notch Macclesfield punks, the Kirkz. The band celebrated their ten year anniversary in 2008 and we have been eagerly anticipating this release from one of the North-Wests most exciting bands. the Kirkz have been regulars at Rebellion Festival and their brand of sing-a-long punk rock will definitely appeal to fans of Rancid, the Dead Pets, Rise Against and Operation Ivy.
myspace/thekirkz
£7.50 (including postage)

TNS011
LEAGUES APART - TO ANYWHERE

Leagues Apart are an awesome new band from Salford featuring members of Stand Out Riot, Kickback UK and the Frontline and this 7 track mini album is their debut release. They are already establishing themselves on the UK gigging circuit and will have also ventured to Europe by the time this goes to press. This is a must have for fans of the Lawrence Arms, Hot Water Music, Dillinger Four and Latterman.
myspace/leaguesapartmusic
£6 (including postage)

BOTH AVAILABLE FROM THE WEBSTORE AT TNSRECORDS.CO.UK OR FROM RECORD SHOPS VIA CODE 7 OR FROM EVIL, EVIL ITUNES





NEW TNS RELEASES!

OUT APRIL 2010

DISTRIBUTED BY CODE7 VIA

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH TNS -

GET THIS FANZINE DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR FOR FREE

We really value your support here at TNS. We are still a 100% not-for-profit label. Every penny goes straight back into the label and we really need your support to carry on doing this. We want you to know what we are up to, when we are releasing stuff and when we are putting things on (so you can buy it/come along) but we also want to reward you for your support by giving you something back.

Therefore we have started a postal mail out. This will happen about four times a year.

And what's even better is that it will cost you nothing to be added to our mailing list.

Just fill in this form and you'll get every issue of this fanzine delivered to your door, exclusive discounts on gig entry and CDs and other great freebies we have planned (some of these are very exciting). We'll also occasionally text or email you.

So please fill in this information and you can look forward to a mail out very soon.

You can either email your info to thatsnotskanking@hotmail.com with the title MAILING LIST or post it to:

Flat 113, The Hacienda, Whitworth St. West, Manchester M1 5DB

TNS MAILING LIST

Name: **Tel. no:**

Email address:

Myspace:

Postal address:

Where did you pick up this fanzine:

TNSradio GOES WEEKLY

We are now doing a weekly podcast (with different presenters each time) playing the best in underground, and maybe a touch of more commercial punk and ska. There are also hilarious themes to each show such as 'what's the biggest animal you can take with your bare hands' and, err 'getting pissed and talking shit'.

The podcast is available in America and online through www.punkrockdemo.com and www.realpunkradio.com so we'd like to thank the guys for sorting that, it's much appreciated. It can also be subscribed to through itunes and www.podcastalley.com so just search for it on them.

Have a listen and check out some quality new music.

Other podcasts and radio shows we recommend include: Punky! Radio, Phoenix FM - Punk and Disorderly, Roland Gent on Salford City Radio, Scanner, Via the A-Hole, the Pressure Drop Soundcast and Audio Crash. All of these are well worth your time and I'm sure I've probably missed out loads of other awesome shows we like. Get in touch if you do a podcast, we'd love to hear from you.

TNSdistro - NEW STOCK

We have loads of new stock, including some sexy Steal 12 inches and other Banquet stuff plus loads of new fanzines. The distro is out at all TNS gigs and lots of other Retro Bar gigs such as Bomb Ibiza and Hellkat. We are always up for swapping stock with people so any distros who fancy some TNS CDs should give us a shout.

TNSlive

The first two TNS gigs of 2010 have been absolutely amazing. The Stupids in January was absolutely packed and one of our best ever nights and our March ska extravaganza was also mind blowingly aweswome. Our next two nights are advertised on the back cover and promise to be just as good and you can look forward to the DOWN AND OUTS and CHIEF in May and June. It's gonna be good!

SOUNDS OF SWAMI are back after a well earned 2 month break. 2010 will see the release of their (as yet untitled) debut album comprising of new and old songs like "Sheep", "Grip Joystick Rapid-Fire" and "Stitched Up at the Sewing Circle". They are currently recording with TimG in Manchester. They plan to embark on their longest ever UK tour in the summer. Until then, they will be playing mostly local gigs and the occasional gig outside of Yorkshire. They've got some great gigs to look forward to like a slot at Strummercamp and headlining their local annual music festival, Boardfest for the first time. Fans of the likes of Fugazi and Propaghandi should keep their eyes peeled for the debut album and upcoming summer tour dates, in what's shaping up to be a great year for the Swami Army.

TNSband NEWS

A WARAGAINSTSOUND are very busy at the moment. Many one off gigs and weekenders will be followed by a 19 date UK tour from March 25th. That's not the only excitement set for March the 25th. That date is also the release of their brand new FREE 6 track EP, which will be available at www.openhandrecords.com.

A WarAgainstSound are in the process of booking a European tour with TheJUNK.

The band recently played 2 support slots with We Are The Union and are playing with This Is A Standoff on 5th April at the Star and Garter, Manchester followed shortly after with a TNS show on 17th April with Section 13. AWAS are on the hunt for any show and tour opportunities so get in touch if you can book them, you won't be disappointed.

There have also been lots of great reviews of the 3 way split ep, recently released on TNS, so make sure you get a copy of that.

REVENGE OF THE PSYCHOTRONIC MAN's 2009 album, MAKE PIGS SMOKE is still getting great reviews from the underground press and the band also featured in the December edition of Big Cheese magazine.

Several new songs have been written for a follow up album, which may be ready by the end of the year. You will be pleased to hear that the new tracks are FUCKING FAST! Revenge of... will be playing the TNS stage at the Strummercamp festival and are also beginning to book a UK tour for the end of July. You can get more info from their recently jazzed up web site at www.revengeofthepsychotronicman.com

HARIJAN have recently returned from a UK tour with the Autonomads of Pumpkin Records and continue to work towards that exciting debut album. You can catch them at Strummercamp so don't miss out!

We'd like to take a moment to welcome **LEAGUES APART** to the TNS family. Fans of the likes of the Lawrence Arms and Dillinger Four will love this Salford based four piece. You can find out more in the interview later this issue and their mini album "To Anywhere" is available on TNS NOW!

The guys have been so busy lately. In Jan/ Feb they recorded that first release and have been playing as many shows as possible. The CD is officially released on the 21st March and they are playing at KRO Bar, Manchester for the release show so GET YOURSELVES DOWN!!

They've played all over the UK over the past couple of months including an amazing house show in Lincoln. They have booked a tour for April, and are all really looking forward to getting over to mainland Europe and playing to some new people.

SENSE OF URGENCY started the year playing a great Fungalpunk night in Bradford but sadly had to pull out of two February shows. However, they've started organising loads more gigs and are working on new material for an album, hopefully released by the end of this year. Future gig highlights include March and April at The Rigger, Newcastle Under-Lyme, supporting the Voodoo Glow Skulls in Bolton on May 3rd and the Strummercamp festival. The band are taking bookings, so if they're not playing near you, get in touch!

The brand new and eagerly anticipated full-length album from **THE KIRKZ** will finally be with us as this fanzine goes to print. Fans of the likes of Rancid, Anti Flag and Rise Against are gonna love this CD, so please grab a copy.

It's called AgroCulture and the artwork is very funny, so you should get it just for that!

We are very happy to announce that Norfolks **FAINTEST IDEA** will be releasing their next album, 'Ignorance is This' on TNS later in 2010. We are very excited about working with such a top band. Their brand of fast, explosive, horn driven, political punk and two-tone ska will go down great with fans of the likes of Operation Ivy and the Filaments. The guys are going to be busy over the next few months recording with Tim G at Big Tone studios at the end of March and early April for the album, which should be released in the summer. Following the release they'll be on tour for 2 weeks up and down Britain and playing Festivals throughout summer. They are also playing over in Europe for the first time in June when they go to play a Scooter rally in France. Then for the rest of the year they plan to gig as much as possible anywhere and everywhere!

BEAT THE RED LIGHT have been toning down the gigs a little of late due to their guitarists Jona and Mike moving from Ipswich to Wycombe and searching for localish jobs. This will hopefully result in twice the amount of band practices and more regular shows. They've also been writing some new material for their new album which they will start recording in a few months time. They reckon it's gonna be a lot heavier than the E.P!

On17th April they are opening at the Camden Underworld for Mustard Plug, along with Mouthwash and Dirty Revolution. New merch will be arriving soon.

THE FRACTIONS have just self released their 'Release' album, which is well worth a listen and the **JOHN PLAYER SPECIALS** also hope to release a full length on the awesome Do the Dog label later in the year. Both will be gracing TNSlive very soon too.

STAND OUT RIOT put in an awesome headline performance at the march TNS gig and will be gracing Strummercamps main stage with their brand of hyperactive ska-core.

FEATURES

THE END OF A DECADE

Not only have we just entered a new year, but also a new decade, which lead me to think about how the horribly named 'noughties' will be remembered. As I started trying to piece together what had actually happened over the past ten years of my life I quickly realised that a lot of the things that will no doubt end up on some sort of Channel 4 review of the decade (possibly with Goldblade's John Robb commenting on them) are absolutely SHITE!

The nation was completely hooked by reality TV and now you just can't get away from it. I have to admit that when the likes of Big Brother first started, there was part of me that couldn't help watching in a sort of slowing for a car crash way. Basically, putting a load of fucking idiots in a room together and laughing at them being fucking idiots is on a level pretty funny… but does anyone really want to watch Dancing on fucking Ice??? They make a reality show out of everything now and it is 100% rubbish. What do people get out of watching this mind numbing crap? I'm sure there was a time when people watched TV to escape from the reality of mundane life? If so, why do the general public want to escape reality by watching reality? It's ridiculous. Why would anyone want to watch a TV program about cleaning someone elses house???

I did manage a year or so of the decade without a TV, but I missed my David Attenborough fix so it's back.

I also HATE talent competitions! Why on earth do people want to make music a competition? Surely that is not what it's about? But talent competitions on TV take it a step further! A bunch of fucking dick heads doing anything they can to 'get noticed' in front of a panel of more fucking dick heads, singing generic, boring chart drivel. IT MAKES ME SICK!

So anyway, after all that I'm sure many readers will be thinking "Just don't watch these programs then". I don't! But I also don't want to have to read a newspaper on my way to work, that gives more coverage to Jedward than it does to things that are ACTUALLY NEWS!

So yeah, in terms of popular culture in the UK, we are going to remember the decade for reality TV.

On the subject of music competitions, I guess I need to mention the whole Rage Against the Machine Xmas number one debate. Did I download it? No. Why would I download a song that I bought over a decade ago? I do think that it's funny that it made number one and I do realise it was just a bit of fun, but why does it really matter. Does anyone who actually likes any music that is actually good care what is number one in the UK singles chart? They may as well rename the singles chart '40 songs that will make you want to gouge your own eyes out!' I won't get into the whole 'both singles were on Sony' or 'some of the money went to charity' debates because as I say, it was a bit of fun, nothing more. I also won't mention the irony of lots of people buying a song with the lyrics 'Fuck you I won't do what you tell me' because Facebook told them to (oh I already did) but what it does highlight for me is how the use of the internet has changed the world during the last 10 years.

The internet is a wonderful thing, but it also has it's bad points.

It was very easy for the internet to evoke a rebellion of sorts by getting people to download a single off the net by sending them a message on Facebook, BUT how many of those people would have gone to their local record shop to buy the single had it been released in a non-digital way? I don't think it would have ever made number one if that had been the case.

It's easy to cause a mini-rebellion from your laptop these days isn't it, but what does that sort of rebellion actually achieve?

The internet has unfortunately alongside all it's positives bought an age of laziness to the world. People would rather sit at home on Facebook (and clearly sites such as Myspace and Facebook will be one of the things people really remember about the decade) than actually go and do something and that is a real shame on so many levels. It affects the underground music scene much more than it should do. People all too often advertise their gigs from a PC rather than getting out there with a pile of flyers.

It also means that people want everything for free as they can just download any song, album, film or TV program at a click of a button and that has also affected the music scene in a huge way.

I wonder how much longer social networking sites will last. Surely soon people will get bored of them? That said I can't bring myself to delete my Facebook account so who am I to talk?

The 'noughties' was a decade where people wanted things nicely packaged, in their front room, without having to think too much. Reality TV and download culture are also accompanied by computer consoles that are probably slightly better than the Spectrum I had as a kid. People no longer have to go to a tennis court to play tennis. They can do it in their front room on a Wii? What's that all about? And why the fuck would someone play Guitar Hero rather than actually playing a guitar? This is going to make me sound really old, but the reality of a kid growing up in the noughties was very, very different to my childhood in the good old eighties. Do any kids these days actually know what a den is let alone have actually built one? It makes me really thankful of my childhood playing outside (without a mobile phone!!!) and it also makes me realise how there is supposedly a problem with obesity in children today. There really is no need to ever go outside!

I sometimes think that it's understandable that people want to stay at home when I look at the wider picture. We are also going to remember the decade for things such as knife crimes and terrorism and needless wars. When you look at the overall picture, the world is not a very nice place.

During the last decade we have continued to wrecklessly burn all our resources, destroyed the habitats of wildlife and continued to chop down rainforests before we even mention events such as the twin towers. Climate change has arguably given us more extreme weather conditions and it's quite likely that in the future we will see many more horrible natural disasters. These disasters also highlight the horrible differences between poorer countries compared our privileged lives in the Western world. I don't think people realise how fortunate we are to have health care and education as standard. I really hope that the world can become a better place, but if I'm honest I can only imagine things getting worse and worse. It's very scary wondering what world will be left behind for our Grandchildren.

I wonder if in the future the start of this new century will be remembered as quite a barbaric time in terms of the pointless wars, animal rights (I still can't ever get my head round the fact that factory farming is actually legal???), religion, pollution and the way that the human race is doing pretty much everything it can to destroy the planet (as we know it) and ourselves. It's disgusting!

The amount of wars that were to do with religion last decade (and throughout human history) really upsets me. People are killing each other over whose God is the best. Stories, with vastly outdated moral messages, that were told many years ago are being taken as fact, when science clearly suggests that little of it is actually true. I'm all for people following a religion if that's their personal belief but when it harms the lives of other people it is not good. As scientist Steven Weinberg says, "With or without religion, you would have good people doing good things and evil people doing evil things. But for good people to do evil things, that takes religion."

And all of that is before we even start discussing the wars that were about OIL!

Anyway, as always I'm digressing.

The last decade will be remembered by our Sunday night nostalgia TV programs for Big Brother, Pop Idol, Michael Jacksons death, Myspace and Facebook. I'm sure some of the more horrific things will be swept under the carpet as always, but for me both in a popular culture way and in terms of real life global issues it has been pretty fucking awful at times!

After all that ranting I decided I'd finish by adding an alternative bit where I discuss what has actually been good so that you don't all think I'm a completely negative bastard.

As I mentioned before, the internet has opened so many possibilities educationally and in terms of popular culture. I have certainly found that I have been able to use the net to make myself more politically and socially aware. It's also amazing how computer technology allows anyone the chance to do amazing things that have not been possible in the past. You can do anything from your shopping, downloading a good recipe, through to building a website or even recording an album at the click of a switch and sometimes every one of us loves a bit of convenience.

Whilst the internet can promote laziness, if used in the right way it can be fantastic. For all Facebooks faults, a friend said to me the other day, he wished he'd had it when he was younger, because going to a school where he was one of three alternative kids was pretty rubbish. Facebook would have allowed him to meet and go to gigs with like-minded people. That's pretty amazing really in terms of communications.

The fact that my band can organise a tour through a series of emails or that I can speak to someone in another country from my computer for free is amazing and even though it should not be relied on, the net can also be amazing for helping promote gigs and cd releases. I won't get into debates about whether computer software has merely created a greater quantity of new music rather than more quality. It is just great that awesome bands who may never have been able to afford it can record to a high standard these days.

It's also unbelievable how CGI has revolutionised film-making, you can see things that previously you could only have dreamed about.

There have been great technological advances and medical advances, which have made lots of peoples quality of life better.

On a personal level, I've definitely had fun this decade, whether it be watching an uncountable amount of amazing bands whilst drinking an uncountable amount of booze or whether it be meeting my fiancee and moving into my own house.

So in conclusion it's not all been bad. Globally I hope things start to at least make some headway over the next ten years and I also hope that the human race can start to take responsibility for our actions and finally……. Simon Cowell can still fuck off…and so can Trinny and Suzannah (especially them two actually!!!)

Andy

PS. Actually TNS was born in the noughties, which means it was the best decade EVER!



HOW TO BE A BAND Part 4

By Em from Bomb Ibiza Promotions

The balance between music, life and sanity is always a challenging one. Having run gigs for around six years, I've seen this reflected in the life-cycles of numerous bands (and other promoters!). We've seen them get together, peak, trough, split up, reform, change styles, change line-ups, re-name, be best mates - and be worst enemies.

Promoters – just like bands – evolve and have to deal with change and stress. Like bands, choosing to invest your time so heavily in music has consequences, and managing those consequences can sometimes be a bigger challenge than what it is you are aspiring to do in the first place. As well as music, we all have individual lives to live – work, friends, relationships, other hobbies etc can all be more important. Whether we treat them as such is up to us.

In this issue of my HTBAB neurosis I am therefore going to reflect on some of the themes that seem most important to me in managing this balance. As per usual none of this will be rocket science, but hopefully some of my observations will make sense in the context of the behaviours you see in the UK DIY scene today.

- Keep it Simple: Ever feel overwhelmed? Like you just want to have ten minutes in front of the TV with a cup of tea, but you can't because of the things buzzing around your head telling you to do the 98 band-related chores that have been building up for weeks? It's a pretty natural occurrence from what I can gather. My best advice is to try to be organised – keep lists of what you have to get done and then (a) you will feel better for having some semblance of control, (B) it'll be easier to work out what you can feasibly do and what you may need to delegate, and (c) you'll feel a sense of satisfaction at actually getting somewhere as you achieve what you've set out to do – and less like you are simply on a treadmill.
- As I look back now, it's exactly how you said: The vast majority of band arguments / frustrations I have seen come down to poor communication (perhaps because I'm often the third party that they talk to, and therefore I get to see all sides!) In order to keep sane, I've always felt that bands could try a bit harder to talk to each other about how they are finding things. Yes, I know that sounds a bit emo, but half the time a load of guys stuck in a van for weeks on end still seem to have no idea of what is making one another tick. This leads to off-hand comments, frayed tempers and ultimately being so worked–up that band members quit and no-one seems to know why. Secondly, if you are frustrated about something to do with the band, talk to someone external about it. We're all often too close to things to see them truthfully and unbiased opinion can help no end – let alone being a chance for you to let off steam.
- Another frozen meal: I'm going to sound like an NHS advert now, but if everything is getting on top of you and you feel like you might crack, having fifteen pints and a pile of drugs might not be the best answer. Your body can only function if you try to take care of it sometimes. Eat properly. Exercise. Moderate your poisons. (Anyone who has done this will agree with me – even if the rest of you think I've lost the plot!) End of lecture.
- As wicked as it may seem: Say no to things. Taking on every gig possible and / or trying to put your foot down too hard with practising, recording and self-promotion can often destroy more than it creates. In a previous article I talked about strategy – as long as you don't lose sight of that (and communicate as per point two), the occasional well-timed sacrifice can do wonders to refresh your enthusiasm for what you do.
- I checked the world and I'm okay: At the end of the day, none of us are victims. We all choose to do what we do and how we do it. Too often investing time in music becomes part of our fabric and it is easy to forget that it is our decision alone to let it feature so heavily. It's only human to feel frustrated and need a moan every now and again, but music is about passion. On that basis I know I often feel a lot better for re-directing my passion into reminding myself that I've chosen my own path, and to refuse to be mired in self-pity. It is the antithesis of everything we should be standing for.

Nothing worth doing is ever easy, particularly when it requires a high level of commitment. This also means that most musical pastimes in the DIY scene have a time limit on them. Nonetheless, making the right sacrifices and not the wrong ones can ultimately lead to the most important choices being made when it really matters.

Em

(p.s. If you've missed the first three HTBAB features and are interested to read some of the background to this article, all are posted on the Bomb Ibiza facebook group and myspace)

FIVE OF THE BEST CHEAP 'UNDERGROUND' AND DIY FESTIVALS AROUND THE UK

Its almost spring time and the sun is beginning to shine! So the obvious things to think about are barbecues, holidays and FESTIVALS! Last year was a great year for UK festivals and this year is looking even better… Its time to find your shorts.

All the way back in May last year I had a great weekend at the annual Strummercamp festival (2010: 28th-30th May) held in Cheadle Hulme, Manchester. The festival was started to celebrate the life of the late Joe Strummer. Last year it featured punk favourites such as Billy Bragg, The Alarm and Goldblade and already lined up for this year are The Blockheads, Spear of Destiny and Pama International. There's also a second stage run by TNS showcasing local bands such as Manchester favourites Harijan and Manchester's top lightening fast punk band Revenge of the Psychotronic Man. The whole weekend is great and the warm bank holiday sunshine last year meant that a 5-a-side football tournament was held one afternoon too. Lets hope for more sunshine this year! Strummercamp had the highest fun rating of all the festival's I attended last summer and the line-up was great too. For just £60 for a weekend ticket including camping it was well worth it!

In July I found myself in the middle of nowhere on a hill in Wales. It was in aid of Kippertronix festival - a small DIY ska festival, essentially held in someone's huge back garden with the campsite being a field next door... With not a police van or next door neighbour in sight the sound was loud and the nights were late. There was music from Rebelation, Yorkshire based Catch-It Kebabs and many more over 2 busy days, plus a locally brewed beer and cider stall and a tuck shop in the day time. It was fun for all the family and again the sun shined for a perfect weekend. Check out this year's line up (2010: 30th-31st July) and ticket info at myspace.com/kippertronixfest



Above: Sam at Kippertronix

Third on my list of festivals to explore last was Rebellion in Blackpool (2010: 5th-8th August) Four days of top rocking bands such as Leftover Crack, Flogging Molly, Sonic Boom Six, The Skints and The Aggrolites would be hard to match with any other festival of its kind. Rebellion not only turns the Wintergardens venue in the west coast town into punk bliss for the whole weekend, but the whole town seems to really get into the vibe. With various pre-festival shows throughout the week before (check out West Coast Rock Cafe and Blue Rooms) and a whole host of after show parties running from kick-out of the main venue to the very early hours, you may just need a holiday afterwards to recover. Tickets are on-sale now for this year at £90/£100 after May 1st. Don't forget to book that dirt cheap B&B round the corner from the venue in advance to ensure a punk rock resort feel to the tacky Lancashire tourist town.

August bank holiday weekend is always a prime time for festivals. The long weekend and the increased chance of sunshine gives events such as Leeds and Reading Festival and Cheshire's Creamfields a large crowd. But in London last year the underground scene struck out at the mainstream money making festivals and held their own mini festival to celebrate all things punk and DIY. The nicely titled 'Fuk Reading' festival held at The Grosvenor in Stockwell kicked back at the clear channel festivals of the UK with two days of awesome bands from all around the UK and Europe. At the minute there are no details on-line, but if the festival runs in 2010 it would definitely be worth checking out if you are spending summer in the south!

Back to Manchester, and in August 2009 Ignition Festival took to The Retro Bar for its second year running. Three days of local ska, punk, reggae, underground bands gave music fans in the north west the chance to skip Leeds festival, and the £200 price tag, and still have a fun-packed and enjoyable band filled weekend. Weekend tickets were just £10 for Friday evening, Saturday night and Sunday afternoon and a massive range of bands played to a packed out venue. The success of Ignition is down to the combined effort of the three promotors involved; TNS, Bomb Ibiza and Slit Records. They all put on gigs at the Retro Bar but come together on August bank holiday weekend each year to deliver the best menu of UK punk and ska available.

You don't have to spend hundreds of pounds on a ticket for a big mainstream festival to hear great bands and have a good time. Support your local scene and give music a chance where it matters.

Sam Cryer

ONE FOR THE LADIES...

RockIt BELLY DANCE

Tues/Thurs Manchester. £5

The girls at RockIt! have come up with a great way to get fit for summer. Their belly dance classes incorporate traditional moves with an African inspired and alternative edge. The fun routines are suitable for all ages, shapes and sizes and it feels great to be in a dance studio with a wide range of abilities and such a laid back teaching method. This stuff really chills me out. The moves can be fast, angry and sweaty, but some are slower, repetative and de-stressing. By far the best thing is the soundtrack. Anyone who can remember (or not!) a time jumping around in Jilly's or The Ritz will take pleasure in the mix up of Nine Inch Nails, ACDC, Sepultura and Aerosmith plus much, much more. You can even suggest bands you like and

they will try and work it in to the next class. Nobody is ever expected to perform, though after just a few classes I would be totally up for it! The classes are held on Tuesdays at 6.30pm and 8pm at The Dancehouse on Oxford Road and on Thursdays at 6pm at Trinity Sports Centre. www.graceinflame.co.uk for details.
Sam Cryer

I DON'T GET ANGRY BUT...

People who stand in front of you at gigs.... If you are tall, wider than average or happen to have wild curly hair which grows to a metre above your head then please just fuck off. Or just stand at the side and make me not want to strangle you.

People on my journalism course... who genuinely believe that writing for The Sun could be, like, the best thing ever, yeah? No.

The weather... well what a rubbish thing to be angry about... But when it was sunny the other day I got excited and wore ankle socks. What a mistake. It's still minus 5 and the sun is teasing me.

Bars that water down Coca Cola. I know who you are. Don't mess with my sugar levels.

People's fascination with the Eastenders live episode. I didn't watch it... but I don't get it. So you are actors, and you improvised for half an hour... Very good!!

Moving out from home and being replaced... with chickens!! My parent's latest obsession is three cute little hens who produce the nicest free range eggs. Still I'm not sure about having to call them my 'sisters'...
Sam Cryer

THE EMOS

It's always a sad moment when a band you love split up, so I'd like to give a big shout out to the fucking Emos. If you like fast punk rock with funny lyrics and great sing-a-long choruses you would have loved this band. I've enjoyed seeing these guys play on numerous occasions and they are gonna be missed by the punk scene. Get yourself a copy of their album and a t-shirt from myspace/theemos as I know they are selling them off cheap and I hope to see the guys back with new projects very soon.
Andy



Above: Cotty from the Emos

MOZ'S GUIDE TO BEING IN A BAND

1) Write some songs
2) Play them
Mozza

STRUMMERCAMP FESTIVAL 2010

After the great success of the Strummercamp festival 2009, Los Amigo's have announced the line up and details for ' Strummercamp Takes The Fifth'...Still at Manchester Rugby Club, Grove Lane, Cheadle Hulme on the May bank holiday weekend 28th - 30th..

We're also very happy to have our good friends from TNS on board taking over the second stage for the weekend! Their line up includes The Stupids, The Skints, The Dangerfields, Moral Dilemma and loads more bands from or associated with their own DIY label.

On the main stage expect the usual mix of music, rock n roll, punk, ska, reggae, acoustic etc. We're more than pleased to have The Blockheads along, being very much in demand since the release of the Ian Dury film. Kirk Brandon brings the mighty Spear of Destiny with a special 'World Service' set. Celebrating 25 years of hard hitting, no nonsense rock n roll we have The Godfathers.
Also playing are Pama International featuring Lynval Golding from The Specials, The Grit, TV Smith, Middle Finger Salute, Avondale 45,Vic Godard and Subway Sect plus loads more acts and a few surprises.

The Strummercamp 5-a-side will take place again with Gino and the boys defending their title so get your team in shape for the challenge!

With a real value for money bar, real ale, excellent catering including a vegetarian cafe, free on site parking, free camping and a very child friendly atmosphere, this festival has evolved to be one of the most good natured and friendly events of its kind - the whole weekend being great value for money. Tickets are the same price for the third year running, £59.50!

Also help Manchester Rugby Club celebrate its 150th year, being one of the oldest clubs in Britain

This is a not for profit festival run entirely by volunteers, nominated in the UK Festival awards through to the top ten for two years running in the small festival category. Its a grass roots, do it yourself fantastic weekend with great music, great people, great atmosphere at a great venue.

Why would you not be there??

VIVA JOE STRUMMER-----
REMEMBER YOU'RE ALIVE!
SEE YOU THERE AMIGOS.....
STRICTLY LIMITED TICKETS
www.strummercamp.co.uk
Phil Fitzpatrick



THE KIRKZ

MACCLESFIELD PUNK ROCK

Emma) So, we're in March already! How has 2010 been for you guys so far?
MJ) We are simmering nicely. So far it has involved being chased for an album we claimed to have made so it was time to put up or shut up. We can't shut up so instead we got it finished and now it's almost ready to see the light of day. It'll be a relief when it's out but then the real work starts. At every show we're played so far I've stood there wagging my fingers menacing at the crowd. Telling them we'll be back soon and they will buying it.
Col) Pretty good, so far. We've managed to work on and finish two new songs in that time, which for us is mega quick. Maybe we've finally found a way of efficiently writing songs. It's only taken us 12 years.
G-Man) Each month is better than the next.

Emma) You've recently been signed to the TNS label. How did that come about?
Col) Persistence to the extreme. We met Andy about 7 years ago, I think. Then he formed TNS and we've done countless gigs for them. We start to record an album, TNS wanna release it, we say yes. The story really is THAT exciting!
MJ) I'm assuming they were blown away by our skills. Either that or they like us as people. That's why I assume they were blown away by our skills. Maybe not even blown away. Maybe just worn down. We have all known each other a good while and in my heart of hearts I'm hoping it's cos they think we'll deliver something worth hearing.
G-Man) I haven't signed shit! If those corporate TNS bastards think they're getting any of my hard-earned they've got another thing coming.

Emma) Were you previously self releasing your old material?
MJ) I've never heard it put that way but yeah all previous recordings we just made and then we sold em ourselves. Which is why this is gonna be such a treat cos TNS can get the records out further and faster than them being in my spare room.
G-Man) The Kirkz have always been proud of their DIY, non-profit image. Some may say that's 'cause we're terrible at selling our merchandise and lack the funds for any sort of professional release.
Col) Yes, and it's so much fun that we vowed never to do it again.

Emma) This is the 12th year you've been in this game. Did you think at the time that you'd still be doing this?
MJ) If you'd have asked anyone who saw us in '98 whether that band should have been allowed to continue for 12 years you'd get some interesting answers. If I could delve back into my 16 year old mind set I reckon I would have been thinking "being in a band is well cool". I'd say I've held that thought pretty consistently.
G-Man) The way I see it, the first ten years of any band's life are just qualifiers for the main event, so it's more like our 2nd year. But yeah, we've always been in this for the long-haul.
Ian T) Yes definitely, but not for £50 a gig. We should have helicopters by now
Col) Have you ever woken up with a hangover at 10:00am, eaten some left over curry then fallen back asleep to finally wake up at 4:00pm and ask yourself: "where did all the time go?" Being in The Kirkz is like Sunday. To answer the question: "No".

Emma) Have you progressed as far as you'd wanted to in that time? (If not, where did you see yourselves?)
Col) Not really. We were playing mid-90's punk rock after it had gone out of fashion and unfortunately it's still not come back into fashion! Due to lack of progression, I've recently learnt how to do turntable scratching on my guitar, a technique that thankfully doesn't involve really playing the instrument.
G-Man) I think we've finally got to the point where our high expectations have dropped sufficiently so they're now roughly in line with our current level of success. That said, I think this the first time where I can honestly say we deserve a bit more attention than what we're getting.
MJ) The Kirkz are a band without a plan. In our defence most bands we ever play with end up splitting up eventually. When judged against those 100's of examples then we are some super successful bastards!

Emma) You've played at the Blackpool Rebellion Festival for the past couple of years. Can we hope to see you cracking any other festivals this year?
Col) Rebellion has been great fun, and so have the other smaller festivals we seem to get invited to. However the likes of Reading, Download and Glastonbury, we'll leave to the big boys.
G-Man) We'd play them all if we could, if only for the free wristbands.
MJ) Never say never.

Emma) What can we expect from you now that you have TNS behind you?
G-Man) Knowing TNS they'll have us wearing animal masks and writing songs about parties in non-existent vans. Realistically, though, I think some good things will come of this venture. I'd like it if we could get a quick turnaround on some other new releases, and if Santa's listening I'd really like a European tour at some point in the near future.
MJ) I reckon a pretty brutal tag team. It didn't need any decision time when they asked if we wanted to put an album out on them. We know what we're good at, like rocking, and what we're not so good at like promoting ourselves. They're pretty bang on the ball and expanding pretty rapidly. They're always coming up at shows to tell me 'bout the latest developments. What they don't know is I'm totally deaf after all this time and just smile and nod a long but then I'll see something on a poster and be impressed.
Col) Part of our contract requires us to wear T-shirts displaying beautiful antelopes from the plains of Africa.
Ian T) An awesome album actually distributed, European tour, more UK dates, another awesome album etc.

Emma) Does it feel like a whole new chapter for you all now, or just it just feel like it always has done?
MJ) Err I kinda promised them this album will shift 14 million copies and make the label like Smash did to Epitaph.
G-Man) Somewhere in between? It's certainly nice to have TNS helping us out now, and what with us all approaching thirty, it's about time we did something proper.
Col) It's always strange recording an album. To us it's like a back catalogue of our past live songs and once we've recorded them it is like starting a new chapter. We'll wipe the slate clean and start to write new stuff. However people buy the album, get used to the songs, then expect to hear them live. Typically being stubborn gits, we'll just play new stuff that's no-ones heard yet. I call this behaviour "the loop of failure".

Emma) Have any bands really stood out for you in your time in the punk scene?
Col) You can find out by buying the album and heading straight to the thanks list! There's been loads of ace bands around, but unfortunately we seemed to have killed them all off.
G-Man) You don't have to look any further than TNS to find a lot of quality music. Bands like Harijan, Stand Out Riot and Sounds of Swami have written some shit-hot songs and know how to put on a show. It's very hard not to be entertained at a TNS gig these days.
MJ) Yeah prob the best bands we've played with are the one's around now but with a massive nod also to The Dead Pets who we played with a good few times in yesteryear. A band that creates the kinda atmosphere they did at shows is rare.
Ian T) Loads. Too many probably. Random Hand mainly at the moment

Emma) Ideally, what would be your perfect tour to provide support for?
MJ) A band with a sense of humour. That isn't miles better than us. So every night can be a competition and we can plot their downfall.
Ian T) Sick of it All, 'cept the crowd would eat us alive when they saw some of Max`s femmy'er moves i.e. the clock, the mic wank or the "im feelin it"
Col) I can't see a single downside to going on a world tour with Bruce Dickinson and the lads...
Questions by Emma Stone
Agroculture is out now on TNS







Top: Col
Middle: G Man
Bottom: Ian/Max

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SECTION 13

BOSS TUNAGE HARDCORE FOR FANS OF THE DEAD KENNEDYS AND MINOR THREAT

Section 13's Ian tells us all about the band, how they got together and some of the issues behind their great lyrics…

Sam) Hello Ian! Can you tell us about your influences?

Ian) Hello! Musically, we're heavily influenced by early 80s US hardcore; the likes of Black Flag, Minor Threat, Circle Jerks, Bad Brains; but also by good later hardcore bands like Career Suicide and Cloak / Dagger. We all listen to different stuff (metal, ska, punk, etc) but it's the hardcore that brings us together in the band. Lyrically, I'm influenced by things that affect me, that can be personal or political, local or global, it doesn't matter. I end up writing mostly personal stuff that's emotive in some way because that's how the sound takes me. I like to try and write lyrics in different styles but I don't think I'm very good at that and end up throwing endless ideas away!
As a person, I'm inspired by positive people and alternative politics. Things are comfortable for many people now but there are still so many things that could be better - it's inspiring when people stand up and say "This is wrong and must change." And I don't mean the publicity seeking idiots you see in the media; I mean ordinary people who have to make a choice to deal with the impact of saying that in their daily lives. Music still inspires me - always has. There's very little that gives you the same emotional high that you get seeing a great gig.

Sam) Spring and summer 2010 are looking exciting gig and fest-wise in the UK. Have you got any big gigs or festivals lined up to play or just to go to this summer?

Ian) We had a great summer last year; having played with NOFX, we went and played with bands like Agent Orange and Snuff - it was a mad year. We even ended up playing with the New York Dolls… But this year's not so hot. We had to take a break over Christmas and it's been hard to get gigs. I don't think people realise how much time and effort go into sorting that side of things out. We're trying to get onto the Rebellion line up anyway, but that'll only happen if someone drops out.

Sam) I really like the song Size Zero. Was it entirely inspired by the Hollywood diet trend or is there something else you are trying to say behind that?

Ian) Cheers! It is about the whole size zero and body trend pressure that surrounds women. There's so much shit everywhere that's telling us what looks good and sexy; and the people selling it don't give a shit about the models or the people they're influencing. The idea that someone who isn't this ridiculously small size is somehow ugly is abhorrent. People are living stupidly unhealthy lives and ending up with body image issues trying to match an image that's totally unreal. And a few 'exposes' about pressure on models makes no difference at all. One of the things I like about the whole alternative scene is that there a lot of different images and looks that have melded together over the years but there's not the pressure that skinny is best.

Sam) We heard Section 13 formed in a tattoo studio... Have you had anything else done recently?

Ian) Yeah, Dave, our first bassist, runs the Sacred Heart studio in Leamington, and the guys asked me to join them while I lying prone having my back done. I thought if I refused , Dave would get the tattooist to fuck up the work! Si's in the middle of having his right sleeve done - very cool black and grey roses. I'm saving up for a new piece on my stomach but that's going to be a while yet - I'm looking at getting a guy from Belgium to do it so it's not gonna be cheap! We're all pretty heavily tattooed and we all have a 13 somewhere!

Sam) What can we expect next from Section 13? Do you have any releases planned for the near future?

Ian) We've got a lot of new songs since the Boss Tunage CD. Some straight hardcore, but more of the newer ones are trying to do something a bit different with the hardcore roots. We're not going for 15 minute songs or anything - they're still 2 minutes blasts - but they're less obvious, less generic, at least we think so! I'm really looking forward to playing in Manchester! We've heard a lot about it, so you've got something to live up to! Release-wise, I'd like to think we could get something out around the summer. We've just recorded a live set that's come out ok, so we'll probably use some of that somewhere. I'm looking for gigs for the summer as well; so if anyone wants to get in touch, use our MySpace site - www.mspace.com/section13hc and let me know!

Sam) And finally, as a standard TNS question... What's the biggest animal you think you could take down with your bare hands?

Ian) Alfie, my lurcher. And only because he'd let me!

Questions by Sam Cryer
Section 13 play TNS at Retro Bar, Manchester on Sat 17th April

MR SHIRAZ

HUDDERSFIELD FUNK/METAL

TNS) 2009 saw a line up change for you guys. Was it difficult to find a replacement, or were you lucky enough to find someone straight away?

MS) We were actually very lucky, as soon as Fonts said he was leaving I knew I would choose Karl. He'd been our roadie/guitar tech for the past year and before that he used to come to our gigs as a kid and to top it all off he is a musical freak who can play everything amazingly well.
The rest of the band totally agreed.

TNS) At recent gigs, you've been airing some new songs. Can we expect a new E.P/album from you anytime soon?

MS) Yes, finally in 2010 we will at last release our second album, its been a complete pain in the ass. Our first album was released Dec 2005!!!!!!!! But all sorts of shit went on which stopped us recording the new one, not Axl Rose type stuff just plain old bad luck haha. But now we are deep into the recording , the tracks are sounding IMMENSE!!! I truly can't wait for it to finally hit shops. I was getting a bit embarrassed when my mate pointed out his band had released 2 albums in the space between our first and second.

TNS) You have quite a different style to the generic 'punk' sound. Who would you say some of your biggest influences are?

MS) We all have very different tastes in music which I think gives us the sound we have, whatever that is haha. Lets see, personally I'm influenced by Faith No More, Pearl Jam, Sublime, Kyuss, all grunge (you may notice all this fits under the 90's alt umbrella haha) and bands like The Bronx, Peeping Tom, Dillinger Escape Plan, loads actually. With the rest of the band the diversity is crazy bands like Bjork, Simon and Garfunkel, Ella Fitzgerald to Discharge, GBH, Slayer, NOFX, Descendents , Weezer, NWA. Yeah we are influenced by a lot of music haha

TNS) Have you found that shying away from the conventional 'sound' has worked well for you, or have you found it harder to introduce your genre to fans?

MS) It's a pain in the arse haha. I mean when we started out we were pretty much ska/punk by numbers but that changed, we got older, we changed as people we wanted to push ourselves further. I think one of the things was we didn't listen to that sort of music so why do we do it.
I think it surprised a lot of people when we began to change and to be honest our fan base got a kicking haha. We would (and still do) get booked to play ska/punk shows and people just didn't really get it, they enjoyed it but it's not really what they were prepared to listen to that night. Me, I love playing so I didn't really notice that much.
I think now people have had a chance to get used to it the base is growing again and we are seeing a lot of new faces in the crowds. It makes me really happy when people turn up to our shows now who used to HATE us and are now really into us, good times.
The thing is though, I don't really have a clue what sort of band we are and so when booking shows I have no idea what sort of gigs to go for so I'm going to be greedy and play all of them. Fuck genre, a good tune is a good tune (I'm not saying that about us, music in general, a good tune is a good tune, who cares on the style).

TNS) What albums of the past 10 years do you think have been the most outstanding?

MS) Personally - Peeping Tom -S/T is a work of pure genius, Lovage (which is by Mike Patton and Dan The Automator) is the sleaziest sexiest album ever, if you need to get into the mood thats the one!. All 3 Bronx albums, Ire Works by Dillinger Escape Plan, The Big Dirty by Everytime I Die, Mariachi El Bronx. I know its not in the last ten years but I only got into him a few years ago so Jeff Buckley - Grace is beautiful as is Plans by Death Cab For Cutie.
That is a really hard question I basically listen to music constantly and there have been so many works of pure genius.

TNS What can we expect from you tour-wise in the next few months?

MS) We'll get this album finished then we are off, will be heading back to europe thats a definite. There is talk of us supporting 'Fucked Up' on tour in May which I truly hope happens. I want to go back to the states again as last time was just amazing!! Festivals!!! I want to play the festivals, all of them. Aside from that play every gig we get offered, thats what its all about at the end of the day, a gig is a gig and thats why we all joined bands in the first place, to gig.

TNS) What will you remember the decade of the 'Noughties' for?

MS) Going bust twice with two business' haha. Getting my heart broken, getting an awesome dog called Axl Rose. Getting to see the world with my dearest friends ever. Making a million new friends. Being very drunk, spending saturdays apologising to everyone I chatted to, texted or e-mailed on the friday night. And laughing, laughing a lot

TNS) Where do you hope to see yourself this time next year?

MS) A little better off, a little happier, listening to our second album and maybe recording a third, I'm not waiting 4/5 years again.

TNS) What would you say your most memorable gig of 2009 would be?

MS) Karls first with us, it was supporting Sorry and the Sinatras at Josephs Well in Leeds, which was the first place we ever played. It just clicked, I knew in the first tune this was gonna work. I smiled from start to finish at that gig.

TNS) Sum up the past year in 5 words.

MS) You learn something new everyday.

Questions by Emma Stone, Answers by Micheal Baird, vocals.

FEATURED PROMOTER NO.1:

MOVING NORTH

After interviewing Em from Bomb Ibiza about their history last issue, I decided that a good new feature would be to tell people about some of the fantastic punk and ska promoters in the North-West and eventually further afield.
I hope to feature SLIT records next time, so if you are reading Dean, I'll be in touch.
However, I thought I'd start with a promoter who has just relocated to Manchester; Moving North. Here's what Kieran had to say:

TNS) How did you start up?
Kieran) In Summer 2009 a guy from Holland came over called Tim Van Tol to play a few shows and I lived in Peterborough then and put the show on. It was a really good turnout and a few guys came from all over the country for it. Two of them were Adam and James. I'd met Adam a couple times before when his old band The Frontline played Peterborough, and had drunkenly talked to James outside a Gaslight Anthem show in Nottingham the previous year. We ended up going round the UK with Tim for the rest of the dates and ended up real good friends. This went for everyone on the Brothers of Shame Tour. That week literally changed my life. So James, Adam and I realised we were all moving to Manchester around the same time and figured we should get involved in the scene up here as soon as possible so we met up and had some drinks and decided we were going to start putting on shows, putting out a 'zine and starting a blog.
Without the Brothers of Shame Tour (Listen to the song by Cynics) in summer, nothing would be happening.

TNS) What sort of gigs do you put on and how would you describe your ethos?
Kieran) I suppose our main ethos is to have a party. We all love boozing and we all love punk rock. Just leaving a show with a smile and a sense of community and positivity is the most we could ask for, so we try and strive for that, whilst keeping door prices as low as we can.

TNS) What bands can we expect from you in the next few months?
Kieran) The first band we ever booked as Moving North was Dear Landlord so we're so stoked for that show. If you haven't heard Dear Landlord, it's incredible No Idea style pop-punk. Their album 'Dream Homes' was maybe the best record released last year.
For fans of Off With Their Heads, Steinways and songs about whisky and records. Our best friends in Apologies, I Have None are also playing that show on May 7th.
Other bands we've got lined up are Deny Everything (Germany) with support from Cold Ones, Cutting Class and a couple others. At the moment we're solely focused on our first show which is happening 21st March at Kro Bar down Oxford Road. It's The Arteries, Bangers, Above Them, A War Against Sound and Leagues Apart. The best bands in the UK in one place.

TNS) Who are your favourite bands (ones you may actually put on and bigger ones too)?
Kieran) I think I can speak for James and Adam when I say we love the likes of The Lawrence Arms, Hot Water Music, Gaslight Anthem, Against Me!, Latterman, Dillinger Four, Nothington...I could go on all day. Also bands like Shook Ones, Kid Dynamite (and every offshoot from that band), A Wilhelm Scream. We also love a bit of Jamie T. However, we're all really proud with the vast amount of insanely good UK bands around at the moment, like Calvinball, Above Them, Just Panic, Cold Ones.
And in his own paragraph we'd like to plug Sam Russo. Best singer/songwriter in England and my favourite lyricist in the entire world.

TNS) Also you are doing a fanzine aren't you?
Kieran) We are definitely working towards eventually putting out Issue #1 but it's proving harder than we thought. We've got some good interviews lined up with likes of Against Me!, RVIVR and the UK bands that played the FEST. At the moment we're compiling material for it, and hope to have it out for our first show on 21st March.
Website: www.movingnorthuk.blogspot.com

FEATURED FANZINE NO.2: MILD PERIL

Rather than reviewing fanzines (as it's something we'd rather not do) we have put together a little list of our personal favourites that everyone should be reading. Fanzines are GOOD! Try to support them as they are a vital cog in your local scene machine.
Anyway, Mild Peril is a fanzine I have been into for a good while and it's also from Alan Partridge country, which is a bonus. The latest issue features awesome bands such as Dillinger Four and Propaghandi and it always covers bands that I am pretty into, with a healthy variety of bigger bands and more obscure acts. It has a sense of humour, with the odd silly feature such as 'Bad tattoo's', but also throws in recipes and gardening tips. It has a nice cut and paste layout and it's a perfect length. I recommend it very highly.
I asked Mild Peril's Pete a few questions about the fanzine.

TNS) Where you are based?
Pete: Hey TNS! Hope you are all doing well, yeah we are based here outta my music room at 25 Swansea Road, Norwich, NR2 3HU! Norwich is pretty awesome at the moment really, loads of cool new local bands, a couple of zines, some good promoters, we of course have the usual hassles just like any city other does though!

TNS) Who contributes to the zine?
Pete)As a brief history, Mild Peril started back in 2007 by Lenore and Dean, as a local based zine which was awesome because I felt Norwich was really crying out for one at that time. Lenore left after Issue 3 and Dean asked me to help him out. Dean himself then decided to hang up his boots only a couple of issues ago. So now I'm left alone on my tod, but I am lucky to have lots of regular contributors who do me regular articles such as Recipes and Gardening Tips.
TNS) What bands are you into?
Pete) Hmm, personally most sub-genres of punk get me hot under the collar and I try to interview many bands that I totally dig. Our latest issue was my personal fave cause I got to interview Propagandhi, Dillinger 4, Strike Anywhere and Municipal Waste. I do seem to make it a harder on myself every issue to try and outdo myself! Other people that have graced our pages that I feel proud to have interviewed include Ben Weasel, Frankie Stubbs, Mike Park, Chuck Ragan. Duncan Snuff, Classics Of Love, The Loved Ones, Chris Murray, Joe Queer, Blag Dahlia. In fact doing this just made me count up how many interviews we have done, we are clocking in at 82 so far!
TNS) How can people get a copy?
Pete) We have a Myspace at www.myspace.com/mildperilzine you can get our latest issue following the link off there, or just by Paypal-ing £2 (includes P&P) to peteoffence@hotmail.com or post a SAE and a hidden quid to the Swansea Road address. A fair few shops and distro's stock us and I wanna give a shout and to them; Punker Bunker, All Ages, Soundclash, Squinty Jo and of course you guys at TNS!



LEAGUES APART

SALFORD MELODIC PUNK FOR FANS OF THE LAWRENCE ARMS, DILLINGER FOUR AND LATTERMAN

Leagues Apart's Francis Hunt tells me all about what the new band are up to…
Sam) Leagues Apart seem to have stormed onto the Manchester scene recently - tell us a bit about yourselves…
Francis) HELLO! We are 1/4 Stand Out Riot, 1/4 Kickback UK, 1/4 The Frontline and 1/4 James 'Gunslinging Outlaw' Hull. Most of us met because we live in the same building in Salford, and then we just had James imported from Kent. We all have our own distinct smell.

Sam) Which other bands on the UK scene would you say are LEAGUES APART from the others?
Francis) There are so many awesome bands right now that it'd take forever to mention them all - so I'll just go for mint bands we've played with so far. Firstly, Apologies, I Have None are incredible. They sound like if Against Me hadn't got rubbish after 'Reinventing Axl Rose', and their new stuff (recorded with lovely TiMG) sounds amazing (and they were kind enough to lend their big voices for our CD!)
We've also enjoyed Macclesfield's The Shuffle - who are back in action after a few member/instrument switch-arounds, Special Agent Set from Bolton are really worth watching out for. By the time this goes to print we will have played with a majesty of bands at our release party - which includes The Arteries, Bangers, Above Them and AWarAgainstSound, who are all amazing. Outside of the UK scene, we've supported Austria's 7YearsBadLuck and Nothington from San Francisco. So yeah, check out these bands, buy their shit, watch them play and then tell them we told you to do this to increase our street cred!
Oh yeah... and we also played with a band called 'Beatdown the Bear'. They had beatdowns, but weren't bears, so I give them 50%.

Sam) Have you got a tour planned for the summer, or which festivals are you really looking forward to?
Francis) We have a few ideas for the summer, but we're really excited about our European tour in April. We're off to Belgium, France, Austria, Switzerland and hopefully Germany, so a week and half of stupidity and wonderment. As for festivals, there's so many to choose from! Groezrock, Strummercamp, Slam Dunk... and we'd quite like to play the Fest, if anyone's listening…

Sam) If there was another league Leagues Apart could be part of which would it be?
Francis) I think we'd fit perfectly into the Violation of Sleeping People League. Seriously, we have one tour rule - don't fall asleep. Unless, of course, you want to wake up with any of your body parts (and I mean ANY!) shaded in a different colour. Nights spent together are comparable to the final scene in A Nightmare on Elm St. And don't think because you're not in our band you're safe. You've been warned.

Sam) What are the main influences behind the band apart from Barburrito, cheap beer and insomnia?
Francis) Hmmmm... That's a tricky one; those are such huge parts of our lives. But, if I had to choose, I'd say bands like Hot Water Music, Latterman and The Lawrence Arms have been massive influences on us musically. Lyrically, everything is about personal experiences and stuff like that. And most of our song names are silly things taken from films, books, dead-ringing look-a-likes!

Sam) Tell us about your new album…
Francis) The CD is a combination of old songs each of us had written, and new stuff that we wrote together over a month or so.
Everything happened very quickly - our line up was only completed in December, and we started recording in January; but surprisingly nothing felt rushed, because we all seem to work together well, and our songs are fairly straight-forward anyway. We produced, recorded and mixed everything ourselves, using the studios at Salford Uni, and bits and bobs we

had at home.
A definite highlight of this was our gang vocal session being shut down by our accommodation security (what's wrong with 11 guys shouting at the top of their lungs at 1am anyway?). But we're very excited about the release! Very very!

Sam) And what about the future, how is that looking?

Francis) We have a few things we're looking forward to in the near future. Firstly, we're putting a song on a 7" single which is raising money for the Sea Shepards, and later in the year we're planning on putting out a 7" of our own. Both the titles for these things are completely amazing and hilarious (we are geniuses!), so hold tight for those two revelations!

Questions by Sam Cryer

Leagues Apart release 'To Anywhere' on TNS in April 2010

They will be playing TNS at Retro Bar on Thursday 1st April.

THE PUNK ROCK DEMONSTRATION

INTERNET RADIO - USA

Punk Rock Demonstration is a punk radio show broadcast over the internet. It is run by Jack who also started up the station. The TNS podcast is featured on his show and so we thought we would find out a bit more about how things started out…

"I was always into punk rock. When I was younger, I didn't know what it was, but later on, like in 1995, I found out what it was called. I got out of it briefly in 2000 or so when I acquired some raver friends," says Jack. He started online radio station Punk Rock Demonstration in 2005. "After my friends overdosed on drugs and such, I got out of the rave scene because it was so ridiculous. I'm anti-drugs and the rave scene was all about drugs - I didn't want anything to do with it so I went back to punk rock and was into it even more than previously because of the lifestyle and the ethics."

"I don't think it's possible to just say a little about how the show started," says Jack. He started Punk Rock Demonstration in 2005 whilst working at a radio station. "I wanted to start my own show, but I couldn't play the stuff I wanted to play because it was regulated. I originally wanted to play rave music, but the problem was, one song would last forever so I wouldn't really have much of a show and plus, I wasn't feeling the rave scene by that point so I started with the punk rock demo show."

Starting out with just 30 minutes once a week, every show was recorded onto cassette tape and transferred reel to reel to be broadcast over the internet. In 2006, Jack broke free from the station and decided to set up his own. "From then, I wanted to make my show different from all the rest of the shows out there by doing audio interviews of punk rock bands, mainly because there weren't any good punk rock interview shows and I hate reading interviews!" Punk Rock Demonstration now features more than just Jack's show and he hopes to fill all 24 hours of the station with different programs from around the world.

It's great to tune into Punk Rock Demo and be able to listen to non-stop songs from bands you really like and Jack really seems to understand what to play and when. "For groovy tunes, I play Asian Man records, usually some ska, but for the energetic songs, I'd go for TKO, SOS, and Concrete Jungle bands. My favourite label would have to be one that's a mix of all of them! My favourite party tracks are Oxymoron - Another Day, Another Mess. Currently my ringtone too because it describes my life perfectly! Another would be Suburban Lockdown - Rock N Roll Heroes and Stand Out Riot - Spacesuit."

For Jack, running Punk Rock Demo comes at a sacrifice. "With my work schedule, anything that I would have probably planned on going to this summer would have been a disappointment. Already disappointed that I missed a show that I threw today because of the sudden change in the work schedule," he says. "I get all sorts of feedback, from wow, your show is awesome, to wow, your stuff is awful. The best feedback I get are the ones who can't spell."

But despite the occasional criticism and having no spare time, I get the feeling Jack loves every minute of what he is doing. "Punk rock just has that energy to motivate me more than the other genres. My main inspiration was Joe Sib from SideOneDummy. When his show came on the air on the local station here, I knew what I wanted to do."

He is definitely a very committed guy indeed. In true TNS fashion I had to find out what was the biggest animal he thought he could take down with his bare hands.

"I'd say a cat because they're the only ones you could trick into staying put until you go in for the take down." Amazing.

Sam Cryer

TOOL OF THE REGIME

80'S INFUENCED MELODIC HARDCORE. FOR FANS OF BAD BRAINS AND THE DEAD KENNEDYS

TNS) Can you give us a brief history of the band? How did you meet, what inspired you to start playing and what have been the best bits so far?

TOTR) Well, we started as a series of drunken ramblings between Lem & Murph in rock club in Bury. After a few line-up changes we arrived at the perfect sort of formula with Steve on drums & H on bass. I guess those 'best' experiences have been more frequent in the last couple of years, since moving into our permanent room in a Radcliffe mill. We've been able to get more jams and be more actively creative, and we were able to record our EP for free in the studio down there – which was fuckin quality. This has helped land us bigger gigs such as with Eighties Matchbox… last NYE and The Stupids last month – FUN!

TNS) You recently released your ep. How has the response been so far? Are you pleased with it and how important is it for a band such as yourselves to get your recorded music out?

TOTR) We're very pleased with the EP. It was so important to do it off our own backs with the help of the guys at the mill. We designed the gatefold sleeve so it would be possible for us to print it for cheap at uni, and as it turns out we've made something quite interesting to hold. Haha, but it sounds wicked too thanks to the way we recorded and mixed it really. Feedback off punk folks has been good anyway!

Of course, it's imperative for bands like us to release records! It's never the same as live gigs but without releases I reckon you'd tread water and struggle to get out of the practice room.

TNS) I always feel there is an 80s hardcore edge to your sound. Is this a conscious thing and who would you cite as influences?

TOTR) It certainly was at first in '04. There was a lot of fuckin anger and we were listening to a lot of U.S. punk such as DK, Bad Brains and early TSOL & Offspring. We're all big music fans though so we listen to all sorts and that's bound to come across in our music. It's fair to say we're from a mixed bag these days – obviously very much into punk but you can hear traces of bands like The Doors & Joy Division in our newer stuff...apparently.

TNS) What inspires you lyrically?

TOTR) Haha! Erm... mainly getting screwed... and screwing. Write about what you know but make it sound like you've written about something else! "Fucking Stoner", for instance, has got nothing to do with weed... just thought I better clear that one up.

TNS) What do you have planned for the new decade and where do you ultimately see the band going?

TOTR)We just want to crack on with what we're doing, it seems to be going well and we're progressing steadily. We should be back in the studio in spring for another eight-track EP (which, by the way, is shaping up to be pretty heavy and unusual), and we just need to keep playing the right gigs to the right crowds. We're sick of playing with fucking indie and metal bands for wanky promoters.

Hopefully we'll embark on a mini tour this summer, we're trying to plot out our route now! But ultimately it's always been about writing new tunes and showing them to as many people as possible. Hopefully, over this year, more people will get to hear what we're capable of.

Questions by Andy

(Below: Tool of the Regime)





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REVIEWS

We only review things we like. We try to be a positive fanzine and we realise that reviews are very much down to taste and opinion. We'd rather tell you about bands we like and that you may also like, rather than slag off something that someone has put a lot of time and effort into. Also, with this fanzine being free we'd rather not waste our space on negative reviews. So, if you sent something and it's not been reviewed, it's either not our cup of tea OR it's sitting in a massive pile of CDs at my house, which I am slowly working may way through. If you want to hear me slag music off, feel free to buy me a pint sometime and I will gladly tell you all about some bands that I FUCKING HATE!

BOSTON UNDERGROUND – 4 BAND SPLIT (KT Records)
FEATURING: SUPERPOWER/THE ALLSTON PANTS/NO SHIT/COLIN AND THE CANCER

This four band ep features bands who play the Boston (that's Boston USA btw) underground circuit and it offers 22 tracks. I must confess I had never heard of the bands before, but as we all know that doesn't mean they are not good.
I really liked the ethos of the whole release and it very much reminds me of the early days of TNS and I've got my fingers crossed that these guys will follow this up with some more releases because this is great.
I suppose if you wanted an overview, all bands fall into fast, aggressive punk/ hardcore categorization, but each offers a slightly different slant.
Openers Superpower, offer quite heavy yet melodic hardcore, with some more nasty, angry punk parts, played really fast, which at times had a hint of Propaghandi about it and at times is more screamy and heavy. The fastest and shortest track, 'Problems' was my personal favourite.
Next up is the Allston Pants who are a much more typical punk sounding band who will appeal to fans of Leftover Crack, as they are quite similar vocally. It's nothing massively original, but it's well executed and well worth a listen.
The latter two bands appealed most to my own personal taste. The hardcore blast of No Shit, was great. As their name would suggest, they are to the point, aggressive hardcore, which reminds me a bit of Paint it Black. There are some more metal, floor punching moments and they are probably the least punk of the bands, and would definitely go down well with a hardcore audience.
Final band, Colin and the Cancer are possibly the most typical punk offering, with an old school UK punk edge, but also hint of Leftover Crack. Their track 'Move' was my favourite on the ep. They are one of those bands who manage to have raw, nasty (nasty in a good way) vocals, yet are still melodic. 'Our Own Way' also deserves a mention as a standout track and also as a good showcase of their sound. Although it's mostly fast paced there are some well executed tempo changes and strong riffs throughout. Good stuff!
So overall, there are four bands on offer here who are well worth a listen and I wholeheartedly give my support to this sort of release. It's a good introduction, to what I really hope is a prospering underground scene and I recommend people check it out.
We've got a few in the TNS distro so make sure you grab a copy, it's well worth it!
Andy

THE PRESSURE TONES - REVERENCE (self released)

I'll start this review by saying that despite executing their brand of organ driven 2-tone ska very efficiently, these guys are not particularly re-inventing the wheel. But I don't think they are aiming too either. The influences are obvious, with their sound clearly rooted in eighties 2-tone, with perhaps a hint of the sixties provided by the organ (particularly on last track, 'Monkey Business'). What they might lack slightly in originality, they more than make up for with their technically proficient delivery. It's hard to pick real highlights as it's just a good, solid, well-written ska album from start to finish and the biggest complement I can give it is that if you heard this live, it would definitely have you dancing. What more could you ask for from this genre? This is a good quality, fun album and anyone out there mourning the loss of 3 Minute Warning should definitely pick this up because you will love it.
Andy

THE SMOKING HEARTS - PRIDE OF NOWHERE (George Street Records)

It took me a bit of time to get into this, but a few people hotly tip this band after touring with the likes of Gallows so I persevered and I'm pleased I did. I imagine their brand of sleazy, riff fuelled punk rock n' roll with a hardcore edge would be great live. I reckon some of the riffs on this album would sound huge in a venue. It sounds pretty big on CD, but I reckon it would be massive live.
A criticism would be that as a whole album it is a little samey, so it's quite hard to pick stand out songs, although my personal favourite was actually probably the final track, 'Message In A Molotov', but I guess the lack of diversity does mean that if it had been a little shorter it would have been more impacting.
However, if you want balls to the wall punk n' roll this band deliver that very succesfully. It's fast, aggressive and sleazy and if you like bands such as the Bronx you are probably gonna like this. I'm enjoying it more and more with every listen and that has to be a good thing. I'll be trying to check them out live at some point soon.
Andy

ART REVIEW
Ray Lowry Exhibition
Salford Museum and Art Gallery
5th December 2009 – 7th March 2010

I've never felt energy or optimism from an art exhibition before. I used to think of them as I experienced in my awkward teenage years; boring, a bit too consistent and unnecessarily quiet. But the Ray Lowry exhibition at the Salford Museum and Art Gallery has change all that. The inspiring life of the Salford born artist is told in bursts around a spacious but disorganised room, and I get the impression this says a lot about Lowry's personality. Touring with The Clash in the seventies gave Lowry an opportunity to create vibrant ink pieces from the side of the stage and also gave him an introduction to the world of punk-rock and politics. The letters he wrote to friends are sprawled across one section giving an equally random and entertaining insight into his strong opinions about war, drugs and hating Paul McCartney! A small TV in the corner blasts out songs by The Clash and I like this – this exhibition didn't deserve to be silent. It's not just art on offer here. You can learn all about Lowry's life and experiences from the quotes around the room. One which thrills me is the descriptive story of young Joe Strummer throwing a glass ash tray across a dressing room one evening on tour. The small collection of cartoon drawings, as featured in NME magazine in the eighties, shows just how passionate about some of these issues Lowry really was. By far my favourite part of the exhibition is the urban landscapes display. Lowry showed that he was more than capable of working on a range of different projects, but the difference in the chaotic style of his work with The Clash and the peaceful and detailed street scenes is uncanny. In one of the oil paintings a man is pictured standing at a bus stop. For me this is Lowry's deepest and most character building piece and strangely I can understand not what the character is thinking, but exactly how Lowry is feeling as he paints. The eclectic exhibition didn't have a starting point and nor does it seem to clearly end – a sure sign that the legacy of Ray Lowry will continue to shine. You can check out more Ray Lowry work at the exhibition at The See Gallery in Lancashire, just check out www.seegallery.co.uk for details!
Sam Cryer

Reviews address: TNS reviews, Flat 113, The Hacienda, Manchester, M1 5DB





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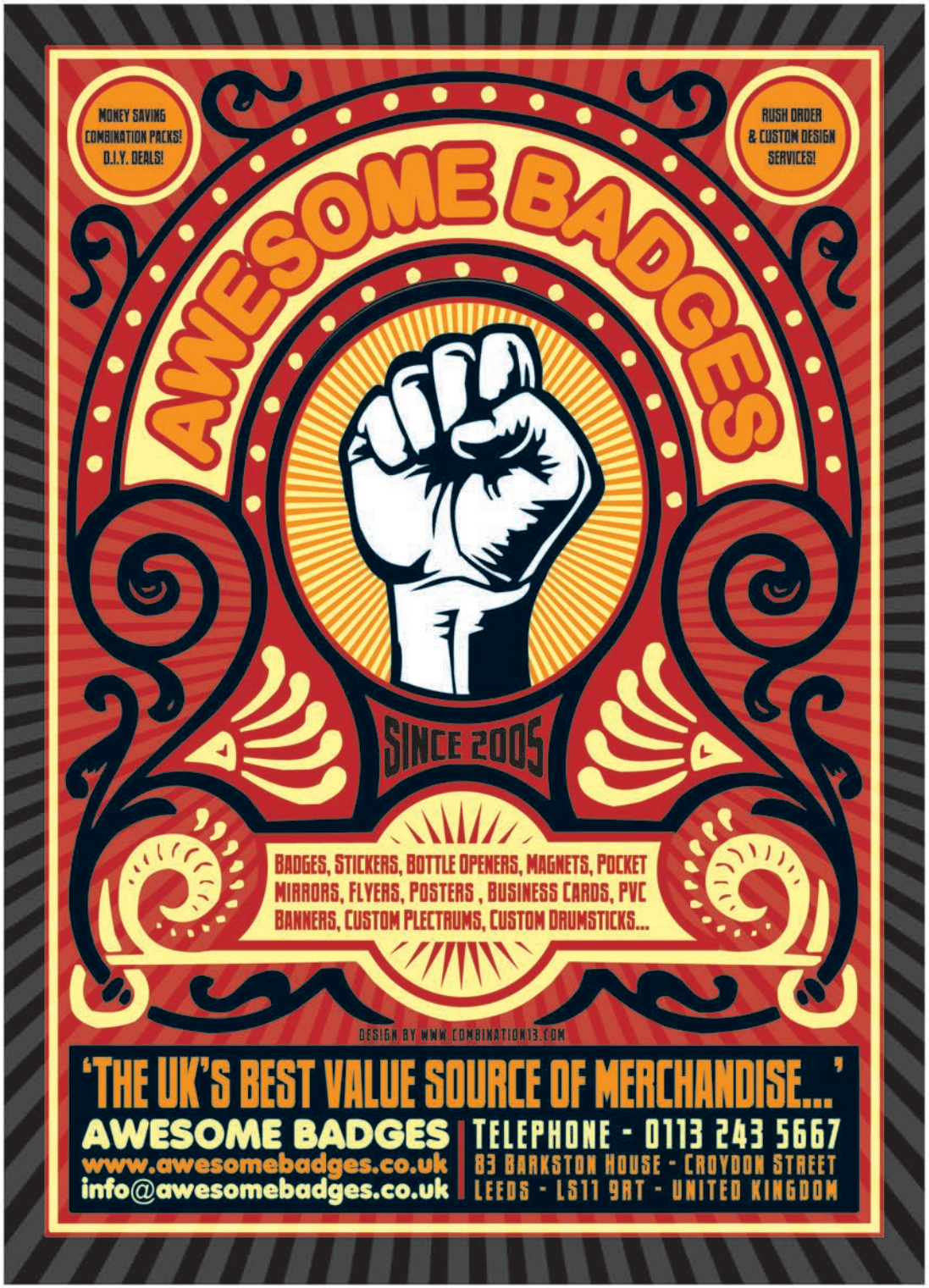
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